

**WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA**

**TIME:** 5:00 pm, Tuesday, September 20, 2011

**PLACE:** Lower Level Conference Room

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Dave Buck	Vicki Burch	Eric Chin
	David Downey	Carrie Ehresman	Jim Knapp
	Chris Leroux	Kathleen Mills	Karen O'Farrell
	Larry Preo	Kumares Sinha	Eddie VanBogaert
	Boudewijn van Gelder		Larry Wood

<b>VISITORS:</b>	Ben Anderson	Peter Bunder	Adrian Cleven
	Kristen Cleven	Phil Daley	Michelle Debord
	Robert Green	Catherine Grossman	Patricia Hertey
	Andrew Hirsch	Carolyn Hirsch	Ann Hunt
	Anna Jansens	Samuel McCormick	Sarah Mustillo
	Cathy Potter	Mia Beguiristain Ramillo	
	Michael Susong		

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum. Ms. Burch made a motion to approve the July minutes and Capt. Leroux seconded. The July minutes were approved as written.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**North Chauncey Avenue:**

Mr. Bunder of N. Chauncey Ave. was present along with several other residents of N. Chauncey Ave. They are concerned about the safety of the children on that street. Ms. Mustillo stated there are 40 children who live on that street and it is a "front yard neighborhood", meaning the children play in the front yards of the houses. The parents are concerned for the safety of the children because of the amount of vehicles that travel on that street, the speed of the vehicles, and the low visibility of the vehicles – she feels that drivers are not able to see the children who are darting out between cars to cross the street. She mentioned that the recently added stop sign on Smiley has been a big help, but they would like to see a lower speed limit in that area and/or children playing signs. Ms. Mustillo said more than anything else they would like to have speed humps on N. Chauncey Ave.

Chairman Sinha thanked the residents for bringing this information to Traffic Commission. He agrees the safety of the children are very important to the commission and we would like to help them in whatever way we can.

Capt. Leroux stated that we should begin by having the West Lafayette Police Department run radar on N. Chauncey Ave. to get the average speeds of the drivers. We should also get speed counts on the street. He offered to have message boards set up on N. Chauncey Ave. to remind drivers to slow down and he believes that educating the drivers is very important. Having officers present will work well initially but the effectiveness will wear off after they have been gone.

Mr. Buck said that knowing the average and max speeds will help. Speed perception is usually different than the actual speed. Sometimes 30 mph may look like 60 mph when you are standing on the sidewalk. As for the "Children at Play" signs, there have been court cases against municipalities and the use of these signs. The City is definitely open to working with the neighborhood on safety. He recommends appointing a contact person for the neighborhood that will be the liaison to the Engineering Department.

Mr. VanBogaert asked what a speed hump would cost. Mr. Downey answered around \$2,600. Mr. Buck stated he is not a fan of speed humps, mainly because of the noise. They are loud when cars drive over them, the acceleration and deceleration of the cars as they approach and go over the speed humps is noisy and it would have to be placed in front of someone's house. Mr. VanBogaert asked if the City has used rumble strips. Mr. Buck responded that they did use rumble strips in a similar situation on Sycamore Lane. As the project evolved people got used to the rumble strips and the speeds went back up. There were also complaints about the noise when vehicles passed over the rumble strips.

Capt. Leroux stated the current 25mph is the correct speed zone for a residential neighborhood. A resident of N. Chauncey stated that 25 mph is too fast for their street.

Mr. Bunder believes it is great that there are so many children present in that area, he believes if the residents feel safe they will continue moving into the neighborhood.

Two members of the neighborhood present suggested that the children be educated on safety. They do not feel the drivers are the problem but the children playing in the streets and darting out between vehicles to zig zag across the street are the problem. They believe if the children are taught not to play in the street that there would not be such a safety concern for speeding cars.

Chairman Sinha asked if there is a neighborhood association and Mr. Bunder confirmed that there is a neighborhood association. He suggested these things be discussed in the neighborhood association meetings. He stated the commission will take the concerns very seriously and we will have to have the majority of the neighborhoods' endorsement to do anything in the neighborhood.

#### **Parking & Safety on Crestview:**

Mr. Hirsch was present to discuss the safety and access concerns along Crestview. He brought pictures along with a list of issues he sees along Crestview. He believes there are school aged children in almost all of the houses along Crestview, however there are no sidewalks. The bus stop is a very busy intersection at the corner of Ravinia and Leslie, but there is not a safe route for the children to walk to the bus stop or to stand while waiting for the bus.

Vehicles parked along Crestview reduce visibility for drivers and pedestrians. Currently there are Mackey Arena construction vehicles parked along Crestview and Mr. Hirsch understands that the construction will be finished soon and those vehicles will be gone but then he believes the WLHS students will begin parking there again.

Mr. Hirsch stated that Crestview and Northridge are unique among the streets in close proximity to the high school. All others have 2 hour parking. He said that there is a parking area set aside for WLHS students along Meridian near Grant Street. After investigating he found that a parking permit for that area can be purchased from WLHS for \$20. Students are not using this lot and he would like to see the school make this open parking for the WLHS students. Currently the students are encouraged to park along the streets.

Capt. Leroux stated he would like the school to identify the people that are parking along the street and offer free parking passes to those students. Mr. Hirsch asked if it were possible to request the change to 2 hour neighborhood permit parking. Mr. Buck answered that the majority of the residents would also have to agree and the request would need to meet the ordinance requirements in city code. Mr. Hirsch said he could poll the neighbors, because he is confident the majority will feel the same. Mr. Buck is concerned that making that area 2 hour parking will just push them to park in the next closest neighborhood that is not currently 2 hour parking.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **Lindberg Bridge:**

The contractor is trying to make up time. Mr. Buck stated that everything must be ready to open at the same time. Mr. Preo asked what the definition of "ready to open" is. Mr. Buck responded that there will be no partial opening. It cannot be opened for vehicles unless all the railings are on and the pedestrian walk way is also ready to open.

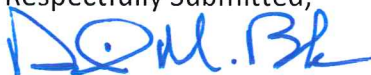
#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **Parking on Oakhurst:**

The engineering department has received complaints regarding sight distance at the intersection of Oakhurst and Northwestern. Mr. Buck stated that the street approach is owned by INDOT and we have already received permission from INDOT to paint the curbs yellow, as warranted. Chairman Sinha recommended checking sight distance on both sides along all of the side streets along Northwestern and painting yellow curb where warranted. Ms. O'Farrell made a motion to approve and Ms. Burch seconded. The motion passed.

**NEXT MEETING:** 5:00 pm, Tuesday, November 15, 2011, Lower Level Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Buck, P.E.  
City Engineer  
DMB/md